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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

AUGUST 1st, 1918.

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

PER ANNUM: **5/-** IN ADVANCE.



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 8 | Vol. 2 | 5/- Per Annum.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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EDITORIAL.

Last month we referred to the hopeful prospects of the appointment of Chief Apiarist being made, as the Minister's reply to the deputation that waited on him led one to believe that it was at least probable. We publish elsewhere a letter received from the Secretary of the Department on the matter, which absolutely shelves the question. We do not quite understand why the appointment is "impracticable"; we only feel that it is very necessary, and should be made practicable. However, we asked for an experienced man to be appointed as a Chief Apiarist, and the Department have given us two one-year cadets as inspectors, so evidently our industry is still reckoned as only a side line in the Department's affairs.

* * * *

Exception was taken by Mr. Campbell, Assistant Director of Horticulture, at some remarks made by the Editor at the Conference. We stated that under present conditions if an enquirer called at the Department for information on beekeeping, there was no qualified man to whom he could be referred. Mr. Jacobsen's headquarters are in Palmerston North, so he is not available; therefore, we were correct in stating that the enquirer would probably be given a Bee Bulletin by a clerk, and go away with the impression that if the industry was what it is supposed to be, the Department of Agriculture does not seem to be very enthusiastic about it. We quite believe Mr. Campbell when he says that no information is sent out by the Department unless it is considered absolutely reliable, but these letters will now have to be referred to either Mr. Earp in Dunedin, or Mr. Westbrooke in Auckland, which means delaying the answer, occupying time of either of these gentlemen, both of whom, now that they have their one-year cadet to nurse, are not to be envied. However, seeing they are paid the princely sum of £30 per year more than a cadet can command, we wish them joy in their positions.

* * * *

We wonder if the matter of paying the present instructors a wage consistent with

the experience they have to carry out their duties satisfactorily is also considered impracticable, because, if so, there is nothing more certain than the Department losing them, and then we shall be in a pretty mess. We know these gentlemen are just waiting to see if the Department is going to recognise their worth, and if anything is going to be done, it will have to be done quickly, as the season will soon be with us again, and it is not at all likely they will miss it. The catch saying "Do it now" would apply here very nicely.

* * * *

Although we do not think the Department is treating the industry with the consideration it deserves, we must acknowledge that it does treat the National Association very well indeed, as will be seen by the letter published elsewhere on the matter of the Government's subsidy of the funds subscribed by the beekeepers. We very much appreciate the continued assistance given, and to Mr. T. W. Kirk and Mr. F. S. Pope we tender our best thanks for their efforts on our behalf, which assist us so considerably.

* * * *

Now, friends, we want all the subscriptions possible to lift the full £100 this year. If you are not a member of the National or a Branch, join at once, and thus help us. We are helping you in every way possible, and should appreciate your recognition.

* * * *

We have just heard a rumour that Mr. F. A. Jacobsen, who was passed as medically fit for active service some months ago, has again been before the Medical Board, and has been turned down; and if this be true, we believe the Government will be losing his services, as we know he is dissatisfied with the existing conditions.

* * * *

We have received quite a number of letters bearing upon the question of apiary boundaries. Some want the Executive to suggest to the Department that legislation be brought to bear on this matter. For our part, we fail to see how legislation will help us, and to frame the proposed Act would be extremely difficult. For instance, the Editor's is an established commercial apiary. Within half a mile is a ten-acre section for sale; a man comes along and buys the land. Are you going to dictate to that man as to what branch of farming he shall do on it? If you attempted it, he would probably tell you to get back amongst your bees, or you might get a sting of another kind.

* * * *

In these days of high prices a great number of people are getting a few hives together, and it is only a question of a year or two that they become commercial apiarists in the sense that they have honey to dispose of. Probably some of them will eventually become professional apiarists, and if you are going to legislate that no commercial apiary shall be established within flying distance of an existing apiary, who is to claim the district where two or three commercial apiaries have been built up?

* * * *

We fail to see how legislation can be framed to be workable. Perhaps some of our readers have ideas on the subject, and we invite them to send them along. What we strongly object to is that outsiders come into a district where commercial apiaries have been established for years, which is clearly a dishonest action. It occurs to us this way:—A man, intending to start commercial beekeeping, goes to trouble and expense in locating a district. Having decided, he puts his bees down, and takes the risk of it turning out unsuitable; and if it does he is many pounds out of pocket. But if it turns out favourably, and he secures good returns, which gets known to others in other districts, it seems a despicable thing for another man to cut into this man's living. It strikes us as being exactly the same idea as the Germans have of our Colonies. Britishers dared the perils of sailing across unknown seas; men took their lives in their hands to build themselves homes; and now that these lands are happy and prosperous, the Germans, who never had the pluck to do what the English did, want these possessions.

* * * *

We are out to support the claims of the established beekeeper every time, and it is useless writing us to explain away the action of any transgressor in this matter, as one man did. Even allowing that this particular district was not stocked up to the full capacity at the time the outsider looked round, it is only reasonable to suppose that the established apiarist would be putting down out-yards as soon as it was possible for him to do so. In this particular instance the outsider was bringing up 300 hives, which will not only prevent the established man from increasing to out-yards, but will probably rob him of a major part of his crop in the house yard. We do not countenance this sort of thing at all.

* * * *

At Conference, when the question of apiary boundaries was being discussed, there was one case mentioned which had peculiar circumstances, as shown in the report. The Secretary wrote the gentleman in question, and received a reply giving the whole of the facts of the case from his point of view, and according to that the young lady really has not quite such a good case. It is a pity it occurred, and we can only hope that the district will prove itself sufficiently good to give a reasonable return to both apiaries.

* * * *

There was a suggestion made at Conference that the next should be held in Christchurch, and it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive. At the time the suggestion was made, we felt that Wellington was THE place for the meeting, as the Minister is there if any deputations are made to wait upon him; the Department officials are all there,

and it is the most central city, both North and South Islanders having about equal distances to travel. However, after thinking the matter over, and bearing in mind the policy advocated to the Branches—viz., holding their meetings in different parts of their districts, it would only be acting in accordance with that if the Conference were held in a different place every year. At any rate, it could be tried, and, if found not convenient to the greater number, it could easily be remedied the following year.

* * * *

Canterbury has had an abnormally heavy snowstorm, and many well-known beekeepers are wondering how the bees have fared. Three feet and more of snow is hardly the thing we provide for in New Zealand beekeeping. One correspondent stated that his hives looked like a Brobdignacion mushroom bed. We wonder what that looks like; also if our readers can guess the correspondent's name?

* * * *

We mentioned last month that Mr. F. S. Pope stated there were to be changes in the Department of Agriculture, and it was probably the last time he would address the beekeepers as Secretary to the Department. We learn that our good friend has been appointed Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture. We are very pleased to know that we shall still be in touch with Mr. Pope, and congratulate him on his appointment.

* * * *

Have you attended a local A. and P. Show lately and seen the exhibits of honey? The Editor attended the Hamilton Show, and was rather disgusted with the poor showing. Here was an excellent prize list—over £8), and a miserable entry; in fact, if one did not go with the expressed intention of seeing the honey exhibit, he would not find it. We learn that the Secretary stated that he would cut the honey and wax classes out of the schedule; they cost a lot of money, what with the prize list and the expenses of the judge (Mr. Westbrooke), and the beekeepers absolutely apathetic. This, too, in the heart of the Waikato, where, we suppose, as much honey is raised as in any part of the Dominion. It was the same, too, at Palmerston North—good prize list and poor entries. Is it any wonder that the Secretaries intend cutting out the classes?

* * * *

We have already referred to the need of a honey exhibit of the National Association, and we are not going to let this matter rest. We want the visitors to these shows to realise that there is such a thing existing as the beekeeping industry, and we are going to do our best for a representative exhibit. Before next extracting season we shall ask certain gentlemen to act as collectors, and shall publish their names and addresses, and shall appeal to every reader in that district to send at least a pound sample. We know there is a difficulty about securing ornamental glassware these days, but that is no reason why we should say with the Department that this matter is impracticable: it is quite practicable if we make up our minds. Every housewife and beekeeper has a white glass jar about the house, and we are going to ask you all to put your sample in one and send it along. Of course, the exhibit will not look quite so nice as if all the jars were a uniform shape and size; but you send along the sample. A hundred glass jars of honey, even though of different shapes and sizes, will look infinitely better than no honey at all. The matter of getting the ornamental glass jars can wait till (the Department's phrase again) the conclusion of the war. Keep this well in your minds, as we shall make it a "star" attraction at the next Conference—the National Association's exhibit of honey and wax, which will be available for all A. and P. Shows, **and your particular sample is going to be the best of the whole lot!**

* * * *

We have received from the printers of the Journal a polite request to be allowed to charge 15/- extra per month, as the cost of everything connected with printing has increased in price to such an extent that the present price charged has too fine a margin. Of course, we must pay the increase, but we are in the unfortunate position of not being able to pass the charge on. This charge is equivalent to three subscribers a month, and we earnestly ask all our readers to do their very best to obtain new subscribers, that our Journal may continue to pay its way. Unfortunately we are receiving too many notifications to cease sending the Journal, owing to men being called up for active service; and unless we can at least hold our present circulation, we shall have to cease illustrating the Journal. We should be very sorry to do this; but it is bad policy to spend more than you earn, and we leave it to our readers to prove that they appreciate the illustrations by sending in new names. We have a fair number of May, June, and July issues that we shall be pleased to send to any address submitted, or to any reader who would distribute them in a quarter likely to produce a subscriber. The printers will only guarantee this increased price to stand for six months, and if a further charge has to be made we shall have no option but to increase the price of the Journal. If you cannot get a new subscriber, there is another way of helping and showing your appreciation in a practical way: Send along a donation; these are days of appeal, so we will be in the fashion!

To help to meet the cost, we are compelled to increase the price for advertisement space of all descriptions. The Beekeepers' Exchange minimum price will be 3/- instead of 2/-.

* * * *

The Honey Market.—There appears to be nothing fresh to report on this matter. We have not received any communication from the H.P.A., so we will take it that "no news is good news."

Owing to some unaccountable behaviour of the appliance used for liquifying honey in the Claudelands Depot, a fire occurred in the heater, and damaged a quantity of honey, valued at £119, which was fully covered by insurance. We do not like this particular appliance; it has always appeared to us dangerous and risky, although this is the first real accident that has happened. It is quite time that the H.P.A. had their packing depots properly equipped with up-to-date steam appliances and facilities for handling the large quantities of honey that now pass through these depots.

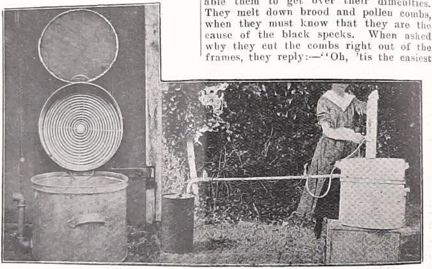
* * *

In the third paragraph of the remarks on the Honey Market last month, it reads that the H.P.A. have £200 in hand to be distributed at an early date. This should read £2,000.

remunerative prices for this honey. We find that the methods generally in vogue to-day are of a crude and hopeless nature. Some press the honey from the comb; others melt the combs down in various ways, regardless as to whether they are half-filled with pollen, or are black with years of use in the brood chamber. They one and all complain because they are unable to free their honey from black specks.

While brood combs can be used for harvesting extractable honey without the quality of the honey suffering in the least, it is quite a different thing when it comes to melting them down; hence the black specks, and dark, cloudy nature of the honey.

Some beekeepers seem content to worry along in a haphazard way, regardless of the consequences, until such time as ways and means are devised by others to enable them to get over their difficulties. They melt down brood and pollen combs, when they must know that they are the cause of the black specks. When asked why they cut the combs right out of the frames, they reply:—"Oh, 'tis the easiest and quickest way." I say it is not the easiest and quickest way, nor yet the cheapest. They only believe so because they do not trouble to seek a more satisfactory way.



1. In detail. 2. Ready for work.

THE BENTON CAPPING AND COMB MELTER.

Harvesting Unextractable Honey.

By H. BENTON.

In many parts of the North Island large quantities of unextractable honey are gathered, in addition to a payable crop of extractable honey. Until the last year or so prices ruling for dark-coloured honey were so low that it did not pay beekeepers to harvest same, especially if it was unextractable; in fact, some beekeepers went so far as to manipulate their colonies in such a way as to prevent them from gathering it.

The low prices offering for this class of honey had the effect of retarding this branch of the industry, inasmuch that now, thanks to co-operation, we are getting

When cutting the combs right out of the frames, let them take into consideration the cost and labour entailed in cleaning and re-wiring of frames, and the remaking and replacing of the foundation, compared with the small cost of cutting new combs down to the mid-rib.

When devising ways and means for harvesting unextractable honey, I realised at once that the use of new combs was essential in many ways, the chief among them being that the honey comb would reduce in the melter more readily, and so the honey would be less likely to deteriorate in the process; the second being that one can with ease cut the comb down to the foundation, using the said foundation the following season for the same purpose.

The Benton Melter, which I invented three seasons ago, will handle all the comb honey one man can cut off the foundation without any trouble whatever, supplying steam for the uncapping knife and separating the honey from the wax at one and the same time. I send a photo., in the hope that the Editor will reproduce it in the Journal. The advantages this machine has over others will be readily seen.

1. It is light and handy.
2. It is heated by means of steam generated outside the honey house, in a boiler made out of an oil-drum.
3. It gives off little heat in the honey house.
4. It supplies steam for the knife.
5. The honey and wax separator is attached to the machine, and is part thereof.
6. As soon as the comb is reduced on the coil, it passes through, falling on to a cooler and not a hotter surface, as is the case with all other machines.
7. Pollen and slum-gum are caught on the scrum underneath the coil, which is easily accessible, and easily cleaned.
8. It costs nothing to work, only wood fuel and water being needed to keep the heat up for both the melter and uncapping knife.
9. A small gas tap regulates the supply of steam for the knife.

For clarifying the honey, including extracting honey, I advocate the use of a tank 4ft. 6in. deep by 18in. in diameter, with a pipe 2in. in diameter from the bottom of the tank up the side about 4ft., exactly similar to the elbow pipe used for separating the honey from the wax on the melter. In addition to this outlet pipe, another tap is needed to drain the honey out of the tank when there is no more to put in. By this method of clarification the clear honey at the bottom of the tank is forced up the pipe and out on a level with the honey in the tank. A bulk tank stands alongside, so that the honey flowing from the pipe flows therein.

In conclusion, I hope the foregoing may be of a helpful nature to those of my readers who have thick honey to harvest in large or small quantities.

Facts about Frames.

By E. G. WARD.

There are two errors in my "Hints on Hive Making." The distance between rabbets should be 19 3-16 instead of 19 13-16. Depth of half supers should be 5¼ inches instead of 5½ inches, as printed. Whether the fault is mine or the printer's I do not know, as I have not got a copy of my article; but I have known cleverer men than myself make bigger blunders.

The necessity for machinery in frame-making is even greater than in hive-making, but as some people (myself included) are fond of "making things," I will give some data.

The top bar should be 19 inches long. When the frame is put together, it should measure 17⅝ outside end bars and 9⅛ wide over all.

In the half depth frames the top bar is 19 inches long, and outside the end bars should measure 17⅝ inches, just the same as in full depth frames. Width over all 4⅞ inches. There are differences of opinion as to how wide the top bar should be. Some advocate 1 1-16 in., claiming that there will be less burr comb by using the wide top bar. I have tried various widths, and prefer the top bars ⅞ x ⅞, with a central groove only. I groove the bar ⅛ deep, and drop the foundation into the groove, and run hot wax down one side only. It is much quicker and better than the wedge and double groove, I think. I make the top bars in the half depth frames full ½ inch thick. I make my bottom rails ¾ inch wide and 5-16 in. thick.

If you examine a factory-made frame, you will at once see why machinery is so necessary if you wish to construct yours in the same way; but if you make what is known as the simplicity frame, the construction can be simplified. I will assume you are going to make some simplicity frames. Get some boards 6 or 8 inches wide, and plane to ⅞ thick. Cut to 19 inches long, and rabbet both ends 1 1-16 in. x ½ in. Rip up and plane to ⅞ wide, and run a central groove for the foundation. Make your end bars 8¾ inches long, ⅞ wide, and ⅜ thick. Make the bottom rails 16⅞ in. long, ¾ in. wide, and 5-16 in. thick.

In putting together, drive two nails through the end bars into the end grain of the top rail, avoiding the groove. Also use two fine nails to nail the bottom rail in between the end bars. It should not be necessary to nail down through the top bar into the end bars. Before nailing up, bore the end bars for the wire. I bore three holes, but some people prefer four. Please yourself. I find a spot of glue a great advantage when nailing together, and it does not take any appreciable time, and makes the frame nice and rigid when dry.

If you would like to make these frames into self-spacing frames, it can be done by cutting strips ⅜ x ¼, and nailing a piece to each side of the end bars through the ¼-inch way with very small nails. Bevel the bottom end of these pieces, and make them 3 inches long.

If I have made myself clear about how to construct a full depth frame, you can easily work out the sizes for a half depth.

If you are going to produce section honey, bear in mind that the outside sizes of the section holder must be the same as the half depth frame, and the inside measurement 17 inches x 4¼ inches to take four sections. The top and bottom bars are to be 1½ in. wide and ends 1⅞ in. wide.

Letters from Department of Agriculture.

Wellington, 2nd July, 1918.

The Secretary,

National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.,
Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

Sir,—

With reference to your letter of the 25th February last and to the deputation from your Association which recently waited upon the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and of Industries and Commerce in regard to the advisability of appointing a Chief Apiary Instructor, I have the honour by direction of the Hon. Minister to inform you that this question has been gone into, and it is considered impracticable to make such an appointment at the present time. The matter will, however, be kept in view for favourable consideration after the conclusion of the war.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. S. POPE,
Secretary.

Wellington, 17th July, 1918.

F. C. Baines, Esq.,
Sec. National Beekeepers' Assn. of N.Z.,
Kati Kati, Bay of Plenty.

Sir,—

With reference to the request expressed at the recent Conference of your Association that the pound for pound subsidy on subscriptions received by the Association be continued for a further period of three years, I have the honour to inform you that it has been decided to grant a renewal for that period, the grant not to exceed £100 per annum.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. S. POPE,
Secretary.

Will sell 56 lbs. granulated honey at 2s. 3d. unless offered more; cash or deposit; sample 2d.; poll early; it's a bit of O.K.—H. Hill, Belmount, Ockbrook, Derby.—Advt. British Bee Journal, April 27, 1918. [You modest beggar!—Ed.]

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—AUGUST.

[As these Instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland Districts, an allowance must be made for difference in latitude North and South. Average bee-seasons in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

In many parts of the country a certain amount of activity will be seen at the hives on fine days, which indicate that breeding is beginning, and the chief item the beekeeper has to think of now is that the hives are well filled with stores. During the winter months the bees consume very little, but immediately the queen commences to lay the stores deplete very rapidly, as there will be very little nectar in the fields just now, and unless the bees have plenty brood rearing is retarded, and the hive will become poor and weak, the very thing to be avoided, because, unless young bees are hatching out in gradually increasing numbers every week, the hives will not be the proper strength to take advantage of the honey flow when it arrives.

Keep a sharp look-out for any hive that from the outside seems lacking in activity compared with others, as this will indicate there is something wrong inside. Should you notice one where the bees, instead of a number flying in and out, some with pollen on their legs, and a general appearance of "business as usual" being carried on, a number of bees are on the alighting board simply crawling about as if they were in want of something, in the middle of a fine day rapidly look through the combs, without disturbing the bees too much, or keeping the hive open too long to attract robbers, and see if it is queen-right or not. If you see a small patch of brood built closely together, you can be satisfied it will come along all right, provided the stores are plentiful; but if the brood is patchy, a sealed cell here and there, you will know that the queen is failing, and should be replaced at the very first opportunity.

Should there be no brood showing at all, they evidently are queenless, and the best thing to do is to unite them to a queen-right colony. To do this, go to your queen-right colony, take off the cover and mat, and lay a sheet of newspaper over it; then lift the queenless hive, cover and all (not the bottom board, of course), and place it on top. The bees confined in the top will soon gnaw through the paper, and thus unite without fighting. There may be other causes for the signs of listlessness. You may find disease, which you can detect by the darkened sunken cappings on many cells, and our advice in this case is not to tinker with it: get rid of the hive as soon as possible. Or the queen may be only a drone layer. This will be detected by the brood-cells being capped over in a raised dome-shaped way, and there will probably be a few undersized drones in the hive. Kill the queen, and unite as with a queenless colony.

District Reports.

WAIRARAPA.

The weather has been such in the past month as to prevent the bees from taking a cleansing flight, in some cases for as long as a fortnight.

Large numbers of colonies are changing hands in the district, and are in keen demand. Several returned soldiers and others are starting in a more or less large way. Everything points to the production of the district being doubled next season.

We regret to have to report Corporal N. C. Napier killed in action. Deceased was a keen and enthusiastic beekeeper, and although only keeping bees for a hobby, was a loyal supporter of the co-operative movement. "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die."

We are pleased to learn that the Government intend establishing a Horticultural Station in the Wellington district. We hope that it will be in the vicinity of the Wairarapa, so that we can hold a Field Day there occasionally.

Floods at Masterton in May caused heavy losses to several beekeepers, one man losing 30 colonies in one apiary. Hive bodies and all were swept down the river.

H. BENTON.

11th July, 1918.

WAIKATO.

Organisation.—For the purpose of organisation and also to give members of the Waikato Branch who cannot attend meetings at Hamilton an opportunity of voicing their views, this Branch intends to hold meetings at the undermentioned places, and trusts that all beekeepers will attend who are resident in the several districts, and endeavour to make these sub-meetings worth while; but should any not produce sufficient interest, it will necessarily not be continued.

Te Kuiti.—Tuesday, 13th August, at 1 p.m. in the Farmers' Union Office.

Papakura.—Wednesday, August 14th, at 2.30 p.m., in the Methodist Hall, Broadway Street.

Rotorua.—Friday, 16th August, at 8 p.m., in the Victoria Institute, Arawa Street.

Te Aroha.—Saturday, 17th August, at 2 p.m., in the Farmers' Co-operative Auctioneering Company's Room.

E. W. SAGE, Hon. Sec.

CANTERBURY.—ANNUAL MEETING.

The above meeting was held in the Trades Hall, Christchurch, on 19th June, Mr. H. A. Johnstone (President) in the chair.

The members who had attended the Conference gave a report of the proceedings.

Letters of thanks were received from the Red Cross Depot and Lady Liverpool Committee, thanking members for donations of honey.

The Secretary's report and balance sheet showed a satisfactory position, but membership has fallen off somewhat. There are now 37 members. An effort will be made to increase the membership by holding meetings at intervals of about a month previous to the opening of the honey flow, and a discussion took place as to how this could best be done. It was decided to make the meetings of an instructive nature, and invite embryo beekeepers to attend.

It transpired that Mr. W. A. Sillifant had been asked and had consented to address the Christchurch Amateur Bee Club in about a week's time, and he was empowered to invite the Club to attend our next meeting.

To initiate the movement for increasing membership, Mr. E. G. Ward promised to give an address on Saturday, 13th July, and the President announced that he had a paper by his father, Mr. Ambrose Johnstone, which he would read at a future meeting.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. H. A. Johnstone; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. A. Sillifant, A. Johnstone, C. A. Jacobsen, E. G. Ward, and J. Chave; Secretary, Miss Mackay; Treasurer, Mrs. E. G. Ward; Librarian, Mr. C. A. Pope; Auditor, Mr. W. A. Sillifant; Committee, Miss M. Shepherd, Messrs. Shaskey and Oetgen; Reporter, Mr. E. G. Ward.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending 31st May, 1918.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Cash in hand 31/5/17	8	14	4
Subscriptions	15	5	0
75 per cent. Refund 1916-17..	3	3	0
" " 1917-18..	11	12	6
	£38	14	10

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Contributions to N.B.A. 1916-17	4	4	0
" " 1917-18	16	0	0
Rent	1	0	0
Printing	0	7	6
Roll for Duplicator	0	15	11
Secretarial Expenses ..	2	4	7½
Secretary's Honorarium 1916-17	5	5	0
Postages, &c.	0	11	7
Cash in hand	8	6	2½
	£38	14	10

Audited and found correct.

June 10th, 1918. L. HAYTON.

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

[These Comments, be it understood, are not to be accepted in the light that "Critic" thinks he knows everything about bees, because he knows he does not, and never can. They are simply intended to help in some small way the development of our industry.]

July Number—**Editorial.**—In the first place, let me congratulate the National Beekeepers' Association upon the splendid attendance at its last Annual Conference. Seeing the largely increased returns received by beekeepers for their honey of late, they were in a better position to cope with the expense of travelling and accommodation, which just now is very considerable. At the same time, each individual attendant would no doubt have benefitted to the extent of far more than the cost in the acquisition of greater knowledge of the business of beekeeping than he had previously.

Chief Apiarist.—The need of filling this office with a good live man is becoming more and more apparent as time goes on, yet, according to the announcement of Mr. Kirk, this, the most urgent and pressing requirement of our industry, is subject to the arbitrary decision of the Public Service Commissioner, who cannot, without prompting, know anything about the matter. The thing is too ridiculous to entertain for one moment. Let us examine the position from a logical standpoint. It is admitted on all hands—the Minister of Agriculture, the Director and Assistant Director of the Division, the Apiary Instructors, and, lastly, the whole of our commercial beekeepers—that a Chief Apiarist is needed for the welfare of commercial beekeeping, and we are told that the only obstacle in the way of appointing some competent person to fill that office at present is that an injustice would be done to absent beekeepers in depriving them of the opportunity of applying for the billet. Digressing for a moment, I wish the Commissioner would condescend to tell us how many outsiders that have answered his many advertisements have been accepted? The whole business of advertising is looked upon as a farce by our civil servants.

To return to our muttons. The questions which present themselves over the inexcusable delay are:—(1) Does the Commissioner know whether any beekeepers now at the front, among those called up, or liable to be called up, are competent to fill the office? (2) Granted, for the sake of argument, that there are, is there any certainty of their returning, or, returning, that they would accept the position? (3) Are we to wait and allow the industry to suffer in the meantime upon such a speculative proposition? The Commissioner or some one must take us all to have "apartments to let in the upper storey" to put such an idiotic excuse before us. The only thing we can do is to ignore such an unreasonable excuse, and to press on, through the National Association and its organ, until we get what is due to our industry. It would be interesting to know who advises the Commissioner.

Two Days' Conference.—It is now well proved that two days is not sufficient time to get through the business of the Annual Conference; in fact, if a sociable evening is to be spent, which I consider should undoubtedly form part of the proceedings, three days is the shortest time that should be given to the meeting.

Crop Reports.—In your remarks on this matter you have raised the very question I went into in last October Journal, the complete solution of which would have been, as I then pointed out, annual registration and the inclusion in the registration papers columns for number of colonies, quantity of honey, and ditto of beeswax raised previous season. Had this been done, you would have been able to publish annually the quantity of honey and wax raised in each province, together with the average per colony. As it is, this great opportunity for ascertaining the position of our industry at short intervals has been absolutely bungled, and we no better off than we were before. Oh! for a live Chief Apiarist to look after our interests.

Mr. F. S. Pope.—Your remarks re the interest in bee culture taken by this gentleman while Secretary of Agriculture are appropriate and well timed. In his present position he will no doubt be able to exercise considerable influence to the benefit of the industry, and I am certain he will if at all possible.

Page 100—**Mr. Gilling's New Position.**—In the last paragraph but one of your report of the adjourned meeting of the H.P.A., you say:—"The [new] position will give Mr. Gilling an excellent opportunity of showing his ability, which was not possible under the old conditions" This sentence seems to me open to be construed in a manner I am sure you never intended. It might be taken to mean that Mr. Gilling up to the present time had not shown any ability, possible or not. I am sure you would be the first to agree with me that, considering the great disabilities Mr. Gilling has laboured under since the H.P.A. was inaugurated, he has shown the highest abilities in guiding it successfully through its most critical period, and that on a salary one would almost be ashamed to offer an office boy. I have no qualms as to the success of the H.P.A. while Mr. Gilling has the management.

Page 102—**Patent Hives.**—Heavens! Have we got a patent hive man among us, Mr. Ward? In addition to your advice to the patentee, I am going to ask him if he has really considered the benefits he has received from the work of his fellow beekeepers' brains, both past and present—**Free,** mind you, **free?** Just think over that, sir, and consider whether it

would not have been more to your own benefit and credit to have given as you have received, if your patent hive is worth considering. For the sake of the good name New Zealand beekeeping has attained from the work of our old beekeepers, let us hear no more about patent hives.

Page 106—**Bee-Stings.**—I have read with very great interest "Uomo Selvatico's" article on the scientific theory of the action of the bee-sting poison on the human body, and the natural antidote (or obstruction, shall I say?) to the poison reaching its maximum effect set up within, minus any effort on the part of the individual. The point of most interest to me in view of my statement in last issue that "the poison enters the circulation at once," is that contained in paragraph marked "2," which seems to me to imply that only on rare occasions does this take place, and then "it must be considered in the nature of a catastrophe." My statement was based upon that of a very eminent medical gentleman (who was interested in practical bee culture), in an article published in the British Bee Journal some years ago, and as his theory seemed to coincide with my practical experience, I have never hesitated to announce it, when occasion required. The theoretical and practical aspect of more or less abstruse questions like the one under consideration rarely agree. My experience certainly points to the rapid diffusion of the poison in the blood circulation in practically all cases. In my early days of beekeeping it mattered not where I received a sting—in the foot, hand, or other part of the body—immediately after I had a feeling in the throat as though I had swallowed a strong dose of cayenne pepper, and even now if a few months elapsed between stings, I have the same sensation in a milder form. My observations outside of my personal experience are against the theory of obstruction, and in favour of immediate diffusion of the poison. If space permitted I could quote quite a number of cases in support of this from my volumes of bee journals I have just looked over.

As for remedies, my knowledge of an effective one is just where it was 40 odd years ago. As to reports of relief from onion juice, cow-dung, ammonia, mud, tobacco juice, and a host of other things. I have often wondered whether auto-suggestion had anything to do with the mitigation of pain where these have been declared effective.

Scotch Fiddle—otherwise **Scabies** or **Itch.**—I was much amused with the surgeon's reference to this, as it reminded me of an evening I put in with a Scotch family in Invercargill, when, for my amusement, some noted bagpipers were invited, and the pipes were going all the evening. The pipers were all Highlanders, and as the evening wore on and the whisky circulated the pipes became more and more in evidence. Being a sassenach I, of course, could distinguish no music in the pipes after the first time or two. In despair I fell back on the whisky as an antidote, which, in my case, served the purpose of a cure for the effects of Scotch pipes, as sulphur does for "Scotch fiddle."

Honey Crop Prospects.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the apiary instructors the following report concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Honey on the open market is somewhat easier since export merchants have ceased buying. Beeswax is in demand from 1/9 to 2/- per lb. The weather has been very wet and cold.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Dunedin.—There is little fresh to report. A few small lines are still coming forward. Prices are firm. Bulk, 8½d. to 10½d.; sections, 10/- to 11/- per dozen. Pat honey: Very little offering. Beeswax is scarce, and is quoted at 2/- per lb.—E. A. Earp.

Wellington.—As far as can be gathered, matters in connection with honey production are about the same as reported last month. All crops are extracted and sold, or held pending granulation, to be forwarded later to one or other of the grading stores. Large quantities are in the stores now awaiting shipment. Section honey is unprocurable. Good clean beeswax is bringing from 2/- per lb. Honey in bulk is realising 1/- per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Correspondence.

[It is to be distinctly understood that the publication of any letter does not necessarily imply our agreement with the subject matter.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—When reading Mr. Ward's "Conference Impressions," I must say I got a serious shock. I consider it would be advisable to dispense with the luncheon next time. When a usually sober, steady-going man like Mr. Ward confesses that his impressions of the luncheon are a bit "misty," it looks very bad indeed. He also mentions that "the photograph turned out better than might have been expected under the circumstances." For the credit of the beekeeping fraternity, may I suggest that the champagne, or whatever it was, be left out of the menu next time.—I am, &c.,

FUDDLED.

[Mr. Ward, you had better put matters straight. The luncheon was certainly "misty," because some "mist" it altogether.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re Mr. Allan's proposal for shipping honey in box under cool storage conditions, if an experience I. had with a similar shipment is to be relied on this method of shipping would not be successful. A few years ago I wished to find out if there was any possibility of getting a market in England for honey in packages. The honey was run into parchment bags inside of cardboard cartons, each 2 lbs., and allowed to granulate. I packed a case of about three dozen, and after a good deal of consideration decided to send it cool storage. When it arrived in England, it was, according to reports, soft, and a messy job getting it separated from the wrappers. What I feared had probably happened—that the temperature of the air in the cool chamber had been so reduced that it could not retain its original moisture, said moisture being readily absorbed by the honey. Some time after this I sent four similar packages to a London firm by post for the same purpose. One of the reports I received stated that "this particular sample of honey, judging from its hardness, must have been adulterated." During the last two years from this district a large number of paper pots of honey have been posted to the soldiers, both in Europe and Egypt, and no complaints have been received as to their condition. It would seem, therefore, and I think it is worth trying, that ordinary storage for boxed honey would be the best.—I am, &c.,

J. RENTOUL.

Cheviot, July 11th, 1918.

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TRAVELLER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,— In my July "Comments" I suggested for consideration the appointment of a traveller in the interests of both the National Association and the H.P.A. Although, as things have turned out, both institutions are now able to run alone, still, each is the complement of the other, neither one being complete in itself so far as the entire interests of the industry are concerned. Therefore, it would not be out of the way if combined action were taken to attain an object beneficial to both institutions.

These remarks are prompted by those of our worthy President of the National in his opening address at the late Conference, where he gave his experience and results of his own bit of amateur travelling. In different enterprises I have been connected with where the interests at stake were considerable, a travelling agent was considered a "sine qua non" at the start. Whether the suggestion meets with approval or not, or whether funds will allow of such a scheme being carried out or not, I feel certain it is the only way to get over the great difficulties confronting co-operation of our beekeepers at the present time.—I am, &c.,

CRITIC.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Our Conference has come and gone, and we settle down to another year's work, and you are asking and no doubt receiving suggestions already re matters affecting us all, so I again take up the pen re apiary boundaries.

Conference report says that the National is absolutely powerless, and yet re the case of the Ruakura cadet is doing what it can to help the trouble which has arisen. In this case there was no "established" apiary. What think you of a person "planting" down beside you just across the street 200 colonies; and yet this is what is happening. The only way of preventing this to my mind (and I suggested it at Conference) is to give the inspectors power by law to refuse permission for to shift bees so close to an established apiary, and so overcome a difficulty which otherwise will be an ever-recurring one.

Another matter is the Conference taking three days again in 1919, and to this a suggestion was made that a North and South Island meeting take place preceding Conference, and the important matter brought forward settled at Conference. This, Mr. Editor, savours of unionism, but after all unity is what we as beekeepers want, and everything that tends in that direction should have our heartiest support. These meetings, held previously, would sift a good deal of matter, and so overcome unnecessary discussion caused through a person not having a grasp of the subject debated, and would thus make our Conference of more value, because unimportant things would not be able to get a look in.—I am, &c.,

C. A. POPE.

49 Cadogan St., Sydenham, 8/7/18.

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I do not know whether you take the N.Z. Herald and have seen the enclosed cutting. It may be of interest to those who may be troubled with honey dew. I have not been troubled with it in New Zealand, but in some seasons in England it is a great nuisance to beekeepers.—I am, &c.,

W. HOOPER TEED.

Waihou, Thames Valley, 5/7/18.

NATURE NOTES.

By. J. DRUMMOND, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

(N.Z. Herald, 29/6/18.)

Mr. A. Fleming, of Auckland, has sent me a few drops of honey-dew. They are on a laurel leaf, and, as several scale insects were on the leaf, there is no doubt that they produced the sweet liquids. Until entomological investigations were fairly deep honey-dew was wrapped in mystery, and mild speculations were made as to its origin. Pliny believed that it was either the sweat of heaven or the saliva

of the stars, a highly poetical belief, which, in time, was replaced by the theory that honey-dew was manna, and, in fact, was identical in origin with the dew that falls on the grass at night. There is no doubt now that it is a secretion of tiny insects. For most of it insects of the aphis family are responsible, but quantities are produced by scale insects also. It is a sticky gelatinous substance, containing sugar. An aphis produces honey-dew through tubes, called nectaries. The organ uesd by the scale insect was first discovered by a New Zealand naturalist, Mr. W. M. Maskell, 32 years ago. It is described by him as a tube, shaped like a cylinder, and thrust out from the body in the method of a telescope. At intervals it is extended to its full length. At its extremity there appears a minute globule of yellowish fluid, almost transparent. This expands rapidly like a soap bubble. It suddenly bursts and then falls in a spray.

As the insect usually lives on the under side of a leaf, the fluid falls on the upper side of the leaf below. The act of thrusting out the tube and forming the drop of honey-dew seems to be infrequent. Many long observations may be made without seeing it, and Mr. Maskell was fortunate in having an opportunity to make observation. The drops accumulate on a leaf. There, Mr. Maskell states, honey-dew has an injurious effect in two ways. As it is glutinous, it tends to choke the breathing orifices of the leaf, and retards the growth of the tree, and, as it contains sugar, it is attractive to fungi, which rapidly increase where honey-dew has fallen, and they help to choke the leaves and hamper the tree's functions. The fungi are black or dark brown, and they discolour the lower leaves and branches of many useful and ornamental trees. It is not to be expected that a substance with a name typical of all that is sweet and delicious should escape the notice of poets and prose writers. Shakespeare refers to the "honey-dew upon the lilie," and Mrs. Hemans to "the honey-dews of dreamless rest," and Gilbert White, in his "Natural History of Selborne," complains that in the sultry season of 1783 "the honey-dews were so frequent as even to destroy the beauties of my garden."

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Would it not greatly encourage interest in and increase our knowledge of our honey producing flora if you could induce beekeepers to send in to you articles or even notes on the plants in flower which are being visited by bees? For instance, I should be very much interested in any information re the successful growing of sweet clover in New Zealand, as my efforts to establish this plant in odd corners, roadsides, &c., have been a failure, although the few solitary plants that have grown have carried flowers every month in the year, and then in most cases completely disappeared.

I should also like to hear of any New Zealand beekeeper who has tried "Long Idea" hives.—I am, &c.,

CHARLES HALLETT.

Te Teko, Bay of Plenty, 14/7/18.

[Has any other beekeeper experimented with sweet clover? If so, we shall be glad to hear from him.—Ed.]

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I see the question of apiary boundaries came up again at the Conference, and though the National is absolutely powerless and there is no law in the land to prevent one man squatting within coo-ee of another (vide report) in the beekeeping line, that is no reason why it should always be so. Though young in beekeeping, I have read many items on this subject, and the case mentioned on page 15 of Report induced me to offer a few suggestions thereon.

At present beekeepers are supposed to register. I suggest they also pay a fee somewhat on the following lines:—All persons who wish to keep bees may do so on registering and paying a fee, say, 2/6 up to six colonies only; such person not to be allowed to sub-let or farm out such colonies. Any person wishing to start an apiary as their main source of income may do so on applying for a license and payment of, say, 10/-, such license to protect the licensee from any other apiarist within, say, a radius of two miles. No other license to be issued within a distance of, say, four miles of any other apiary. The fees to be collected by Government and returned to Beekeepers' Associations for furtherance of inspection and instruction.

The first suggestion gives anyone the right to keep bees, and half a dozen colonies is enough for family use. The second gives the right of Government protection. Query: What is the Government going to do after settling a soldier on an apiary site and a pacifist comes along and plants a few hundred colonies within a short distance of him?

Now, Mr. Editor, are we on the way to a solution or raising a hornet's nest?—I am, &c.,

D. R.

July 11th, 1918.

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(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Although neither a member of the National Beekeepers' Association nor a subscriber to the Beekeepers' Journal, I nevertheless trust you will permit me to lay before you a suggestion which I consider would advantageously affect the beekeeping fraternity in general. I am only

a very small man in the bee world, but take a keen interest in the profession.

I deem it to be an opportune time to draw the attention of all who are interested in the raising and keeping of pure stocks and the production of good honey to the fact that it is time to endeavour to obtain better legislation in New Zealand for the protection of those who have spent, and are still prepared to spend, considerable sums of money and energy in fostering so important a branch of this Dominion's exports. This is the main point as I see it:—"That no person be allowed to establish himself as an apiarist within a distance of six miles of an existing apiary," for the following reasons:—

1. That the control of foul-brood would at once become an accomplished fact, provided that it was made a notifiable disease subject to heavy penalties for failure to notify, and that queen-selling was prohibited until a certain period had elapsed after the apiary had been declared clean by the Government inspector.

2. All commercial beekeepers to be appointed Government inspectors (without salaries) for their own protected areas; the Government to supply lists of all registered beekeepers for each particular locality, and to prohibit the sale of honey by such private beekeepers as are situated within the commercial beekeeper's area. This would in no wise restrict the output of honey, nor would it be any hardship to the small man wishing to raise honey for his own private use. In fact, it would be of considerable advantage to him, as all commercial beekeepers would be only too glad to supply the few private men in their districts with pure queens to prevent their own stocks being contaminated, and the private man would gain the additional advantage of healthy bees and an increased output. The Government would also reap a considerable advantage in the fact that their salaried inspectors would have a considerable burden removed from their shoulders by the appointment of such local inspectors, who, for their own sake, dare not neglect their inspection duties, consequently giving the Government official ample opportunity to attend to matters of considerably greater importance.

3. That queen-raising would be greatly stimulated and encouraged by the knowledge that queens would run no risk of being mis-mated. Consequently beekeepers would be considerably more prepared to spare no expense in raising the purest and best disease-resisting stocks, thereby raising the standard of beekeeping, and greatly augmenting the production of honey.

Finally, having such protection, beekeepers would be encouraged to sow special crops, such as clover, from which the finest quality of honey is obtained, and which would add to the fame of our New Zealand honey abroad.

Referring to the "six-mile limit" being greater than the distance usually agreed upon as safe, I would point out that although bees generally fly from 1½ to 2 miles, it is also universally agreed that they can work a radius of three miles, which means a flight of six miles before the hive is again reached. This being so, it is fairly safe to assume that drones, which have the entry to any hive, will hardly attempt a six-mile flight on the chance of locating an unknown hive; whereas an apiary only four miles distant might easily be seen at the end of a three-mile flight, and would in consequence be much easier to enter than to return to the old home. Hence the advisability of increasing the distance if purity of stock is to be maintained. Further, the six-mile limit is specially intended to encourage beekeepers to grow clover, and produce the finest quality of honey. Where apiaries are established at a lesser distance, one could hardly expect a man to sow clover unless his neighbour did likewise. Many would argue that this is pure selfishness, but would a dairy farmer allow his neighbour's cows to feed in a field he had specially cultivated for the benefit of his own animals.—I am, &c.,

ATHOLE V. DAVIS.

Belmont Avenue, Mt. Albert, Auckland.

Answers to Correspondents.

D. R.—Unless you are absolutely certain that your darkened honey is free of foul-brood, it is really not wise to feed with it. Sugar syrup is cheaper and safer. The Solar extractor should not have rendered the honey unsaleable, and you could no doubt dispose of ¾cwt. locally at a very good price.

An Early Spring Day's Work among the Bees.

ADDRESS GIVEN BY Mr. E. G. WARD (CANTERBURY BRANCH), 14/7/18.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I will assume you are a party of beekeepers who have called at my apiary to ask my advice on some of those unexpected difficulties which often crop up in early spring. As I am about to examine my hives for the first time since closing down last March, the time is opportune, and I cordially invite you to come along with me, and as I go through the hives I will draw your attention to anything unusual, and try to explain the why and wherefore of such a condition.

We will first put on our veils and light the smoker. I find rotten willow wood makes good fuel, and a few gum leaves put in first will give it a good start.

Having the smoker in good trim, we go to the first hive. You will notice I have with me a black box, with wire cloth top and bottom, and handle to carry it by. This box is the same length as a hive-body, and wide enough to hold five frames. We shall find it very useful by-and-bye when we want to put a frame out of our hands. I do not like standing a frame on one end leaning against something, especially if the queen is on it, so I made this box, and always have it with me when examining the hives. Mrs. Ward is almost invariably with me in my bee work, so I will hand her the smoker, and I will take the hive tool and handle the frames.

We remove the hive cover, and on the top we find a small tab of wood with certain memorandum written on it in pencil. I keep one of these tabs under the cover of every hive, and make notes whenever necessary, so as not to burden my memory by trying to remember details, and also for the purpose of saving time in examination.

On looking over the one in my hand, I find a swarm issued on 1st January, 1918, so we know there should be a young queen here, unless I had hived the swarm on the same spot and removed the parent colony to another location to discourage after-swarming. The tab says:—"1/1/18. Swarmed; hived swarm in 23; cut out all cells, and gave laying queen." Another record on the tab says:—"10/2/18. Took 75 lb." This means we extracted 75 lb. of honey on February 10th, and, as we had been very busy, we omitted to examine the hive to see how our young queen had fared, and on closing down in autumn we wrote, "Stores O.K."

We will now look into the hive to see if all has gone well. You will notice we do not smoke at the entrance. We very rarely do so, as we consider it does more harm than good in most cases. We take off the mat, and blow a few puffs over the frames, and take out one of the side combs. We find the stores all right, but there seems to be very few bees. Something wrong here. On coming to the fourth frame, we find a queen, so we wonder why there are so few bees. We go to the next frame, and there we find a number of under-sized drones, and on the same comb a number of sealed cells standing out above the surface of the adjoining worker comb. We at once diagnose the trouble—a drone-laying queen. But why a drone-layer, when we know we gave a laying queen on 1st January? We will have another look at the queen. Here she is, but it is easy to see she is NOT the queen we introduced. She is very dark, and we know we gave a nice yellow queen from our best breeder. It is evident the bees killed the queen we introduced and reared another; or it is possible when we destroyed the cells there was a virgin queen already hatched in the hive, and she may have killed our good queen and failed to get mated. This is a difficulty which sometimes occurs when a swarm issues late in the season, or if a spell of bad weather sets in after a swarm has issued. About the only thing we can do in this case is to kill the queen, trap and kill the drones, and unite the few remaining bees with

some other hive, and use the stores to help any which may be short. (Questions.)

We will now go to the next hive. Here we find plenty of bees, but they seem excited, and keep coming up between the frames. We have got a number of stings already, so we give them an extra dose of smoke. I take out a couple of the frames nearest me, and put them in the black box, so as to get room to work, and proceed to look over the combs. We find brood in all stages, and plenty of stores, but no sign of the queen yet. After lifting out the next frame, we look in the bottom of the hive, and there we see a ball of bees about the size of an egg. They are balling the queen. What sh we do? Some recommend dropping the ball of bees into a basin of water and liberating the queen, then put her in a cage and force the bees to eat her out. Others will smoke the bees off and cage the queen; but we generally close the hive with as little delay as possible, and in most cases we find this the best plan. I have never tried dropping the ball in water, but have sometimes smoked the bees well and caged the queen. I do not like the plan, however, for sometimes the bees will sting the queen when irritated with smoke. We had this happen with a particularly fine queen last season. It happened in a baby nucleus hive. We wanted to introduce this queen to a queenless colony, and on going to the nucleus found the bees balling the queen. They had done so once previously, and on that occasion we left them to it. As I said a minute ago, we smoked the ball of bees, and just as we secured the queen one bee managed to sting her, and in five seconds she was dead. Why bees ball their queen it is difficult to say, but I am of opinion that in many cases they are trying to protect her. If a queen is timid, she will run and hide as soon as the hive is opened, and this will cause the bees to ball her. On the whole, I believe the best plan is to leave them to it and go to the next hive. (Questions.)

We will now go to No. 23, where we hived a swarm on 1st January. The record tells me they had ample to winter on, and another note—queen failing. We look over all the frames, and although there is brood in all stages, there is not much of it, and what there is is very patchy and scattered. We also find the colony weak. It is evident from the examination that unless something drastic is done this colony will not be of any value as a honey gatherer, so we consult as to what is best to be done. If we had a spare young queen we would at once kill the old one and introduce the young one; but we have not got one. Shall we send to a queen-breeder for one? No; it is hardly worth while, as the colony is too weak. We decide to wait till we have examined some more hives, and if we find one queenless we will unite it to this one, and note on the record—Re-queen. This will be done as soon as we have any ready. You will understand that in this case we are rearing some early queens at our home, and expect to bring some with us on our next visit, say in a fortnight, to replace any we decide to destroy. (Questions.)

On going to the next hive, we have the good fortune—or perhaps I should say the bad luck—to find exactly what we want. We closely examine the frames, but cannot find any queen or brood. We also feel sure they are queenless, because they are not working energetically like other hives near by. They have not got any babies to feed, and seem to know instinctively they are doomed, and seem to act as though they would say if they could speak, "What's the use anyway?" However, they are strong in numbers, so we will unite them with those in No. 23. We shall then give them some heart to work, and if we re-queen next visit may get a fair surplus from the two lots united, whereas they would not be worth hive-room if left by themselves till we could re-queen them as well as the other. We will unite them at once, or, rather, we will fix the two hives up in such a way that they will unite of their own accord. There are a number of ways of uniting bees, but the way most in favour with us is by the newspaper plan. We simply put a sheet of newspaper on top of the queen-right hive, poke a few holes through it with a nail or pencil point, and put the queenless colony on top. As these two hives stand side by side, and fairly close together, we move the queen-right hive halfway nearer the other, and the trick is done. The home of the queenless bees is now gone from where it stood, and if there are flying bees away from home we do not trouble. There is rarely any trouble in uniting by this plan, as the flying bees come home with a load, and seem to be welcomed in the new home after some little parleying at the entrance. The bees in the top hive, finding themselves shut in, very soon try to find a way out, and those below start gnawing at the paper, and probably by the following morning the two colonies will have united, and scarcely a bee killed. If the two hives had been a good distance apart, we would have waited till evening, so as to have all the bees at home. We would put the queenless hive on top in the same way, but probably put two thicknesses of paper instead of one, so as to give them a little more trouble in getting out. We would also put a board in front of the entrance, so that when leaving the hive for the first time they would note a difference to their former home and mark their location afresh. The mere fact of their finding they have a queen and brood to fed seems to be a great factor in holding them to the new location, and it will be found successful every time. There are other methods of uniting, such

as the smoke plan, scented syrup, flouring, and also that of mixing the frames of the two hives of bees; but we have not been so successful with these methods as the one I have described. (Questions.)

We now come to a colony which we find is running short of stores. As it is evident from our examination that there is a good young queen here by the quantity of brood under way, we must feed them in some way. The best plan of all is to give them frames of honey, and as you will remember we found a colony a short time ago which had a drone-laying queen, we will go there and take as much as we consider necessary to last them for at least a fortnight. Two good full combs will be enough, as we expect to be back in about that time, but to be on the safe side in case a spell of bad weather sets in we will give them three. We heave a sigh of relief to think that we have so easily overcome that difficulty.

(To be continued.)

Some time ago, in response to an appeal from the Red Cross Society, a move was made to collect honey for the use of the boys at the front. Yesterday Mr. L. Bowman, who was formerly Government Apiarist in Christchurch, completed the packing of the last lot for shipment, the total quantity sent being approximately five tons.—Clipping.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

"Our hearts, our hopes are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears;
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears
Are all with thee, are all with thee."
—Longfellow.

B. G. EDWARDS, late of Geraldine. Invalided home.
L. D. CARTER, late of Springfield. Invalided home.
E. A. DENNIS, Glenroy.
W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs. Invalided home.
S. R. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed in action.
R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch.
J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch.
P. E. HOLMES, Pirongia.
T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.
R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.
R. S. HUTCHINSON, Hamilton.
J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.
G. R. WILLIS, Pukekohe.
A. ECKROYD, St. Albans, Christchurch.
A. CURTIS, Porowhita.
W. G. DONALD, Brookside.
E. N. HONORE, Otakeho.
E. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt.
J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki.
G. ROGERS, Opotiki.
C. BICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action.
P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action.
G. NAPIER, Alfredton.
N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton. Killed in action.
W. J. JORDAN, Ngaruawahia.
G. SQUIRES, Fairview.
MURDO McKENZIE, Dunrobin. Killed in action.
W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.
JAMES IRVING, Albury.
R. M. HAMILTON, Ettrick.
A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.
JAS. MARSHALL, Maungatua.
A. BEVAN, Waihau Downs.
D. CRAWFORD, Waikoikoi. Killed in action.
R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-volunteered.
S. G. HERBERT, Ruawai.
F. W. LUNT, Addington.
J. MORGAN, Dannevirke. Killed in action.
H. SQUIRES, Hawera.
ALEX. MAITLAND, Orari. Killed in action.
A. R. BATES, Kaponga.
C. E. QUAIFE, Russell's Flat.
G. HARRISON, Waipahi.
H. W. McCALL, Wallacetown. Killed in action.
G. I. SHAW, Domett. Killed in action.
D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North.
E. CLARK, Westmere; invalided; severely wounded.
M. J. DOBBING, Morrinsville.
H. R. PENNY, Okaiawa.
C. L. GRANT, Rockville.
BEST BROS., Dannevirke.
E. OMUNDSON, Dannevirke. Invalided home.
E. PALLANT, Dannevirke. Reported missing.

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